

OBS Studio Quick User Guide

A Beginner-Friendly Tutorial

Prepared for Teachers, Researchers, Innovators and Creators

Introduction

OBS Studio (Open Broadcaster Software) is a free tool for screen recording, webcam capture, and live streaming. This quick guide shows how to set up OBS and start recording your screen in less than one minute.

Step 1 — Select the Display to Capture

You already have a **Display Capture** source, but if the preview is black, follow these steps:

1. Click **Display Capture** in the **Sources** panel.
2. Click **Properties**.
3. In the popup, select your monitor under **Display**.
4. Choose *Display 1* (laptop) or *Display 2* (external monitor).
5. Click **OK**.

Your screen should now appear in the preview window.

Step 2 — Check Audio

OBS has two main audio sources:

- **Desktop Audio**: computer sound
- **Mic/Aux**: microphone

Make sure the green bars react when you speak. If not:

1. Click the gear icon next to **Mic/Aux**.
2. Select **Properties**.
3. Choose the correct microphone.

Step 3 — (Optional) Add Webcam

1. In **Sources**, click the **+** button.
2. Choose **Video Capture Device**.
3. Select your webcam and press OK.
4. Resize and position the webcam in the preview.

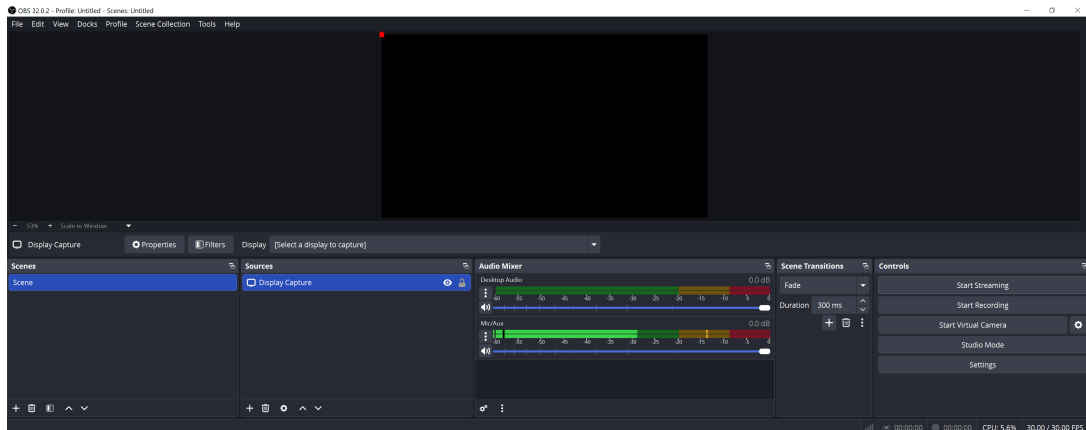


Figure 1: First open-screen in OBS Studio. OBS Studio is a free and open-source screen recording and broadcasting software. It is suitable for creators, developers, learners, and reserachers.

Step 4 — Choose Where Recordings Are Saved

Go to:

Settings → Output → Recording → Recording Path

Use a simple folder such as:

Videos/OBS Recordings

Set:

- **Recording Format = mp4**

Step 5 — Start Recording

In the **Controls** panel:

- Click **Start Recording**.
- When finished, click **Stop Recording**.

OBS will automatically save your video to your chosen folder.

Quick Fixes

Black Screen on Display Capture

- Run OBS as Administrator.
- Or change **Capture Method** (Properties → DXGI / Windows 10 / BitBlT).

Microphone Not Recording

- Settings → Audio → Mic/Aux → select your microphone.

Laggy Screen

- Settings → Video:
 - Base Resolution: 1920×1080
 - Output Resolution: 1920×1080 or 1280×720
 - FPS: 30

OBS Panel Overview

- **Scenes:** bottom-left
- **Sources:** bottom-middle (Display Capture, Webcam)
- **Audio Mixer:** center (Mic + Desktop Audio)
- **Controls:** right (Record, Stream, Settings)
- **Preview Window:** top

What You Can Do Next

- Record only a window (PowerPoint, browser)
- Remove background (green screen)
- Record coding tutorials
- Improve microphone quality
- Stream to YouTube or Facebook